

21 June 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting of the Special Group, 21 June 1962

PRESENT: General Taylor, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Gilpatrick, General Lemnitzer, and Mr. McCone

1. Reconnaissance of China

Colonel Steakley outlined the proposed RF-101 reconnaissance program to be mounted against the Chinese Communist buildup. The program consists of:

a. Daily coverage of the coastal areas around Foochow, Amoy and Swatow. Routes and frequencies would be at the discretion of CINCPAC, based on weather conditions.

b. Weekly coverage of other selected areas on the mainland. These routes would also be at the discretion of CINCPAC, based on weather.

In addition to the above-mentioned overflights, DOD plans the following peripheral reconnaissance:

a. An increase in fleet shipping surveillance flights to two per day, involving approaches as close as three nautical miles to the mainland.

b. An increase in C-130, or equivalent, ELINT and COMINT flights to one per day, in the Formosa Straits.

It was noted that all flights in the Straits would be ordered to abort on the basis of COMINT or other warning of hostile action.

Mr. McCone then outlined three suggested TACKLE routes.

(Note: All of the above were later approved by higher authority.)

General Lemnitzer reported that SAC will make two U-2's available [redacted] as a backup, if required. Colonel Steakley said that Secretary McNamara would like to have recurring coverage of strategic objectives well within China, and Colonel Steakley estimated that at least four successful flights would be required for suitable coverage. It was agreed that this should be discussed with COMOR.

NSC review(s) completed.

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In connection with the entire reconnaissance program, Mr. Johnson said that he felt it should be kept under progressive review and that the stepped-up frequency should be abandoned if a Chinese buildup is not confirmed.

2. SAMOS Contingency Plan

Mr. Johnson presented a modification of the suggested contingency press release which was a part of Dr. Charyk's proposal of 15 June. The contingency plan as modified was satisfactory to Defense and to the Chairman. Mr. McCone said that he had not had time to review it and he would give his comments at a later date.

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Thomas A. Parrott

Distribution

Mr. Johnson
Mr. Gilpatric
Mr. McCone
General Taylor